CLAIMS

1. A method of treating a mammal for atherosclerotic disease comprising administering to the mammal a Factor XIIIa inhibitor.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the Factor XIIIa inhibitor is a Factor XIII(a) Lp(a)-matrix specific inhibitor.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the Factor XIIIa inhibitor is a Factor XIII(a) Lp(a)-fibrin specific inhibitor.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

5. A method of identifying an inhibitor of Factor XIIIa comprising:

(a) incubating an Lp(a) component, a matrix component, and Factor XIIIa in the presence or absence of a test inhibitor;

(b) determining whether complex formation between the Lp(a) component and the matrix component was inhibited in the presence of the test inhibitor; and

(c) identifying as a Factor XIIIa inhibitor the test inhibitor that inhibited complex formation.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the matrix component is selected from the group consisting of fibrin and a fibrin component.

7. A method of identifying a Factor XIIIa inhibitor comprising:

(a) incubating Factor XIIIa and a first substrate pair comprising an Lp(a) component and a matrix component in the presence or absence of a test inhibitor;

(b) incubating Factor XIIIa and a second substrate pair in the presence or absence of the test inhibitor, wherein the second substrate pair comprises any two components that are Factor XIIIa substrates for complex formation,

(c) determining whether inhibition of complex formation between the first substrate pair was greater than inhibition of complex formation between the second substrate pair; and

(d) identifying as a Factor XIIIa inhibitor the test inhibitor that provided greater inhibition of complex formation between the first substrate pair than between the second substrate pair.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the matrix component is selected from the group consisting of fibrin and a fibrin component.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the second substrate pair comprises a first member selected from the group consisting of fibrin and a fibrin component and a second member selected from the group consisting of fibrin and a fibrin component.